

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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R 052202Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3600

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 8330

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SNAR, EC

SUBJ: JOINT US-ECUADOR NARCOTICS MEETING, DECEMBER 2, 1974

1. MONTHLY NARCOTICS MEETING WAS CONVENED DECEMBER 2, 1974, BY COLONEL GUSTAVO VACA. PRESENT FROM ECUADOREAN SIDE WERE COLONEL NUNEZ, CHIEF OF NATIONAL POLICE NARCOTICS DIVISION AND INTERPOL CHIEF, AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF CUSTOMS POLICE. THE U.S. SIDE WAS REPRESENTED BY THE EMBASSY'S POLITICAL COUNSELLOR, THE DEA AGENT IN CHARGE, THE USAID NARCOTICS ADVISOR, TWO USAID CUSTOMS ADVISORS AND ANOTHER EMBASSY POLITICAL OFFICER.

2. GROUP CONTINUED ANALYSIS OF PROGRESS TOWARD ACHIEVEMENT OF OBJECTIVES STIPULATED IN POLICE PROGRAM AGREEMENT. CONSENSUS WAS THAT IN MOST INSTANCES WHERE GOE HAD FAILED TO FULLY MEET OBJECTIVES, PRINCIPAL REASON WAS LACK OF SUFFICIENT FULL-TIME PERSONNEL ASSIGNED TO GOE NARCOTICS SERVICE. COLONEL VACA ASSURED THE GROUP THAT NEW NARCOTICS SERVICE TABLE OF ORGANIZATION WOULD BE APPROVED AND PUT INTO EFFECT IN JANUARY, THEREBY RECTIFYING THIS SITUATION. AS FOR U.S. CONTRIBUTION, GOE PARTICIPANTS EXPRESSED SATISFACTION WITH AND APPRECIATION FOR OUR ADVISORY AND TRAINING EFFORTS.

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3. U.S. OPERATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES MADE POINT THAT

GOE, EVEN THOUGH HAMPERED BY LACK OF PERSONNEL, COULD DO MORE TO INTERDICT NARCOTICS TRAFFIC. POINT WAS MADE THAT SKILLS REQUIRED OF NARCOTICS INVESTIGATORS WERE LACKING IN GOE. TWO EXAMPLES CITED BY U.S. SIDE WERE NEED FOR MORE RURAL PATROLS, AND IMPROVED BORDER SEARCHES. GOE OFFICIAL ACKNOWLEDGED THESE POINTS BUT NOTED THAT THESE PROGRAMS COULD ONLY BE EFFECTIVE ON BASIS OF SOUND INTELLIGENCE. THIS LED TO REQUEST FOR MORE INTELLIGENCE FROM OUR SIDE WHICH GOE SEEMS TO FEEL WE ARE WITHHOLDING.

4. IT WAS AGREED THAT BOTH SIDES WOULD DRAW UP ASSESSMENT OF PROGRAM OBJECTIVES AND RELATED ACHIEVEMENTS DURING CY-74 FOR NEXT MEETING WITH VIEW TO SHARPENING NEXT PROGRAM AGREEMENT AND CONCENTRATING ON MOST PRESSING OBJECTIVES. IT WAS ALSO AGREED THAT CHIEF OF CUSTOMS MILITARY POLICE WOULD BE INVITED TO ATTEND NEXT MEETING.

5. COMMENT: ATMOSPHERE IN MEETINGS CONTINUES TO IMPROVE AND FRANK EXCHANGE OF VIEWS IS BECOMING A CHARACTERISTIC OF MEETINGS WITH FULL SUPPORT OF COLONEL VACA. REGULAR MEETINGS BETWEEN DEA REPRESENTATIVE AND COLONEL NUNEZ ARE TAKING PLACE, AND THESE OPPORTUNITIES COULD LEAD TO MUCH IMPROVED COORDINATION AND BETTER RESULTS. OF COURSE, UNTIL NEW TABLE OF ORGANIZATION IS PROMULGATED NARCOTICS POLICE ACTIVITIES WILL CONTINUE HAMPERED. NEXT MEETING IS SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 7, 1975. BREWSTER

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